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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/737,420	12/15/2003	John O. Marsden	97112.2936	6347
20322	7590	10/29/2004	EXAMINER	
SNELL & WILMER ONE ARIZONA CENTER 400 EAST VAN BUREN PHOENIX, AZ 850040001			KASTLER, SCOTT R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1742	

DATE MAILED: 10/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/737,420

Applicant(s)

MARSDEN ET AL.

Examiner

Scott Kastler

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 13-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 12 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/22/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

Means-Plus-Function Language in the Claims

The instant claims contain the following language written in means-plus-function form, however, none of the following terms are described in the specification in particular detail to meet the requirement for a proper means-plus-function limitation. Therefore, the following terms have been interpreted to include any structure capable of meeting the recited function. See MPEP 2181.

1. "means for conditioning" (claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 17, 18, 19 and 20)
2. "means for controlling" (claims 6, 7 and 18)
3. "means for blending" (claims 8, 9 and 19)
4. "means for recycling" (claims 10, 11, 12 and 20)
5. "means for reacting" or "reacting means" (claims 13, 16 and 20)
6. "means for leaching" (claims 13 and 15)
7. "means for electro winning copper" (claims 13 and 20)

Double Patenting

Applicant is advised that should claim 6 be found allowable, claim 7 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k). The above claims differ only in their manner or method of intended use, (the particular copper concentration to be achieved) and it has been well settled that the manner or method of use of an apparatus cannot be relied

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upon to fairly further limit claims to the apparatus itself. See MPEP 2114 and *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235.

Applicant is advised that should claim 8 be found allowable, claims 9 and 19 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k). The above claims differ only in their manner or method of intended use, (the particular copper concentration to be achieved) and it has been well settled that the manner or method of use of an apparatus cannot be relied upon to fairly further limit claims to the apparatus itself. See MPEP 2114 and *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-10 and 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fischer et al. Fischer teaches a system for recovering copper from a copper containing material (see the embodiment of figure 1 for example) comprising a reactor, or reaction means (the slurry tank) suitable for reacting a copper feed stream with a portion of a copper containing lean electrolyte stream through a recycling means (22), a pressure leaching vessel, or leaching means

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(the oxidation leaching means of Fischer et al) leading to a means for conditioning the product slurry comprising a liquid-solid separation circuit which can include a "blending means" (see col.4 lines 45-55 for example), which leads to an electro winning circuit or means (the electrolytic deposition circuit of Fischer et al) which recycles copper containing lean electrolyte to the reactor, thereby showing all aspects of the above claims, since the specific concentrations and temperatures recited are method of use limitations which could be met by the apparatus of Fischer et al, and as stated above, where a prior art apparatus meeting all structural requirements of a claim can be operated in a manner which would meet the method requirements of a claim, even if not specifically disclosed, the manner or method of use of an apparatus cannot be relied upon to fairly further limit claims to the apparatus itself. See MPEP 2114 and *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11, 12 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims at least because none of the cited or applied prior art shows or fairly suggests additionally recycling means recycling copper containing lean electrolyte back to the electro winning circuit or means.

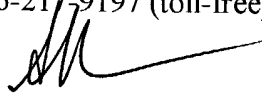
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Mardsen et al'689 B2 is also cited as a further example of prior art direct electro winning systems for copper production.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Kastler whose telephone number is (571) 272-1243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Scott Kastler
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1742

sk